

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

MICHAEL R. CUNNINGHAM NAMED CURATOR OF JAPANESE ART

Michael R. Cunningham has been appointed curator of Japanese Art, it was announced today by Evan H. Turner, director of The Cleveland Museum of Art. Dr. Turner and Sherman E. Lee jointly chose Dr. Cunningham for the post before Dr. Lee retired, on June 30, 1983, as director of the Museum and chief curator of the Department of Oriental Art. Dr. Cunningham will also serve as acting head of the Department of Oriental Art.

A graduate of Tufts University, Michael R. Cunningham received the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Far Eastern Art at the University of Chicago. Before completing his doctoral degree in 1978, he spent two years at Kyoto University, in the Department of Art and Aesthetics, one of them on a grant from the Center for Far Eastern Art of the University of Chicago. His first teaching position, in 1976-77, was in the Department of Art History at the University of Oregon.

From 1977 to 1979, Dr. Cunningham was Mellon Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Humanities, teaching in the Department of Art, Case Western Reserve University, and serving as Research Fellow in Japanese Art in the Department of Oriental Art of The Cleveland Museum of Art. He was adjunct associate curator of Japanese Art at the Museum and assistant professor at the University, a joint appointment supported by a grant from the Japan Foundation, from 1979 to 1982. Since 1982 he has been associate curator of Japanese Art at The Cleveland Museum of Art and adjunct associate professor in the Department of Art at Case Western Reserve University.

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In 1981, Dr. Cunningham assisted Sherman E. Lee in the selection of objects and installation in the Japan House Gallery, New York, of "1000 Years of Japanese Art from The Cleveland Museum of Art," an exhibition honoring the seventy-fifth anniversary of Japan House. He was joint author, with Dr. Lee and Ursula Korneitchouk, of the catalogue that accompanied that exhibition.

He was also joint author, with Dr. Lee, of the catalogue of the major exhibition, "Reflections of Reality in Japanese Art," an assemblage of rare and important works of Japanese art that was shown only at The Cleveland Museum of Art in the spring of 1983. Dr. Cunningham assisted Dr. Lee in selecting the objects in that exhibition and supervised its installation with visiting curators from the Bunka-cho (Agency for Cultural Affairs) of the Japanese Government. He supervised a colloquium, the first of its kind, which enabled advanced graduate students and young academics to study the works in "Reflections of Reality in Japanese Art" and to discuss them with senior scholars.

He has contributed articles on Japanese painters and Japanese art to the Bulletin of The Cleveland Museum of Art, Oriental Art, Zaigai Nihon no Shiho, and the forthcoming The Encyclopedia of Japan.

Michael R. Cunningham is a native of Maplewood, New Jersey, and served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam (1968-70). He is married to the former Carin Lamont, a clinical psychologist, and they have one daughter.

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For additional information, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.